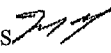


# Memo

**To:** Board of Managers  
**From:** Michael Younes, Director of Municipal Operations   
**CC:** Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager  
**Date:** 3/4/2015  
**Re:** Composting Follow-up

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As a follow-up to the Board's February 9 Public Hearing on establishing a Village food waste recycling (composting) program, staff has spoken with the Town Managers at the Town of Somerset and Town of Chevy Chase regarding their composting programs. In addition, staff has been working with the Compost Crew to negotiate pricing incentives should the Village wish to implement a composting program.

## **Composting in Neighboring Communities**

### *Town of Somerset -*

Somerset does not provide, fund or supplement composting in the Town. If residents want to contract on their own they can do so through the *Compost Crew* at a rate they set, which is based on the number of participating households within the community, currently estimated at \$25/house/month.

Somerset has no stats on how many residents compost through the Compost Crew or what the collection costs are.

Somerset did advise that their Council is looking at the possibility of implementing a community program; however, no timetable has been set.

### *Town of Chevy Chase -*

The Town of Chevy Chase currently has the most robust local composting program. The Town's composting program currently has 283 participating households (25% of their community). They pay \$9.07 per household, per month to the *Compost Crew* for the weekly collections, which occur on Tuesdays.

The Town's program, however, is curbside, which requires that residents bring their compost bins to the curb each week. The Town fully funds the service, which includes the bin liners for one bin, per week.

The monthly service fee does not include the purchase of the bin, however, the Town covers this cost as well. Town pays \$15 per bin. If Town residents request

collection of additional bins, the Town will provide the bins (at no charge); however, the collection costs are borne by the resident. Currently, the *Compost Crew* does offer the service at half price for each additional bin collected, up to two (2) additional bins.

Lastly, as a further incentive to participate, the Town pays for each participating household to receive two (2) compost products (soil, mulch, etc.) each fiscal year, which the Town sources.

### **Cooperative Procurement/Pricing**

The Town's pricing structure as offered by *The Compost Crew* is shown below:

<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>Monthly Cost Per Participant</b>
50-99 <sup>1</sup>	\$14.96
100-149	\$12.05
150-199	\$10.39
200-249	\$9.56
250-299	\$9.07
300-349	\$8.73
350-399	\$8.50
400-449	\$8.32
450-499	\$8.18
500-549	\$8.07
550-599	\$7.98
600-649	\$7.90
650-699	\$7.84
700-749	\$7.79
750-799	\$7.74
800+	\$7.70

Given the Village's proximity of the Town of Chevy Chase, the *Compost Crew* is agreeable to extending the Town's pricing and level of service to the Village.

The *Compost Crew* is also willing to negotiate with the Town and Village to draft a cooperative agreement to further discount its service. The pricing structure above would be similar, however, the exact monthly cost figures would be adjusted to reflect the additional work load that the *Compost Crew* would be required to do.

By comparison, the Village pays \$13.61/house/month for refuse collection and \$7.22/house/month recycling collection. Overall, the majority of the households in the Village are currently participating—to some extent—in the Village's mixed paper and co-mingled recycling program; however, the level of participation is not consistent from year to year.

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<sup>1</sup> There must be a minimum of 50 participants.